

Office of the President
of the Philippines
Malacañang

84-
Feb. 18, 1970
Wednesday

3:00 AM -

The rioters have just been dispersed at the corner of Recto and Legarda (3,000 of them) with six grenades of tear gas ^{through} at 1:00 AM. The gas is still in the air as there is no wind. The 150 men under Faccina who had been at Gate 4 since about 7:00 PM waited for the rioters that forced their way into the U.S. Embassy compound, burned the guardhouse, destroyed the glass windows of the buildings and threw bottles full of gasoline in an attempt to burn it down. They also wrecked all the shops and restaurants in Plaza Ferguson, at A. Mabini, U.P. Avenue and the Sunta. Part of Hilton Hotel destroyed.

Ambassador Byrnes called me to seek help as the U.S. Embassy had only a few guards. I directed Walter Manuel Cellantes to order Mayor Vellegas to order the anti-riot squad to break up the rioters.

The massing of 3,000 near Malacañang was apparently a prelude to another attack on the palace.

This was a show of the Faccina, Bert Blaha and Kabatany Makabayon groups.

But they are moving forward to the need for the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus or martial law. Just a little bit more and we will have to deal with the provincial governors and city mayors at the Aguinaldo for a briefing on the plan of the conspirators to take over the government and the need to organize strike forces of local municipal policemen which I authorized in March 1969. They want guns and ammo, funds and the lifting of public bidding in the municipal police equipment which I gave.